

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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TAGS: OCON, ECLA

SUBJECT: 15 TH SESSION ECLA: PLENARY

SUMMARY: PM SESSION MARCH 26 GENERAL STATEMENTS MADE BY
UNDP VALDES, AMB. MENNELL (UK), AMB. LISETTE (FRANCE) IN NAME
EEC, PRICE (BELIZE), UN UNSEC. DE SEYNES, MAGARINOS (LAFTA),
AND REP OF WHO. END SUMMARY.

1. GABRIEL VALDES, UNDP FOCUSED ON COUNTRY PROGRAMS EXERCISE
IN LA, PRAISING ITS RESULTS, AND ON PREPARATIONS OF MTN, NOTING
THE NEED FOR ADEQUATE ASSISTANCE TO LDC' S FOR THEIR
PARTICIPATION IN UPCOMING NEGOTIATIONS. IN LATTER CONNECTION,
HE SPOKE BRIEFLY OF UNCTAD AND ECLA PROGRAMS TO ASSIST LDC' S.
IN ADDITION, VALDES MADE PASSING REMARKS RE NEEDS OF RLDC' S AND
ROLE OF ILPES.

2. AMB. MENNELL' S STATEMENT EMPHASIZED IN TWENTY MINUTE
INTERVENTION, PART DELIVERED IN SPANISH, THAT UK' S ENTRY INTO
EEC WOULD NOT HAVE OVERALL DETRIMENTAL AFFECT ON BRITAIN' S TRADE/
FINANCIAL/ ASSISTANCE RELATIONS WITH LA. IN THAT VEIN,
MENNELL CHARACTERIZED PARTS OF ECLA' S R/ A ANALYSIS AS BEING
" TOO NARROW AND THEREFORE TOO NEGATIVE," OBVIOUSLY REFERRING
TO PARTS OF VOLUME TWO ON TRADE AND EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE WITH
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THE UK AND THE EEC. NOTING THAT THE EEC EXPERIENCE TIL NOW SHOULD LEAD ONE TO OPTIMISTIC RATHER THAN PESSIMISTIC ANALYSIS OF FUTURE, HE DEVOTED REMAINDER OF SPEECH TO POSITIVE ASPECTS FOR LA OF UK'S ENTRY INTO EEC. HE NOTED THAT THE EEC COMMON EXTERNAL TARIFF OFTEN TIMES LOWER THAN OF INDIVIDUAL STATES, THAT EEC DONOR RECORD GOOD, THAT AS REGARDS UK'S ENTRY INTO EEC THERE WOULD BE 4-5 YEAR LAPSE BEFORE UK ADHERED TO EEC'S COMMON TARIFF AND AGRICULTURAL POLICY. HE NOTED THAT LA AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS TO UK, REPRESENTING 1/3 OF TOTAL, WOULD PROBABLY BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED, BUT EMPHASIZED GROWTH POTENTIAL OF REMAINING 2/3. AT END OF SPEECH, MENNELL SAID THAT UK ENTRY DID NOT INVOLVE UK'S TURNING BACK ON WORLD. HE FINALLY URGED ECLA ACTION ON POPULATION, URGING LA PARTICIPATION IN WPC AND CONGRATULATED ECLA FOR ITS PART IN HANDLING OF NICARAGUAN EARTHQUAKE RELIEF.

3. LISETTE (FRANCE) SPOKE IN NAME OF FRANCE AND EEC, STARTING WITH FORMAL COURTESIES AND GOING ON TO EMPHASIZE THE SOCIAL ASPECTS OF THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS. SPEAKING TO INTERNATIONAL MONETARY SITUATION, LISETTE GAVE SUPPORT TO INCREASE PARTICIPATION LDC'S IN UPCOMING TALKS. HE REITERATED FRANCE'S SUPPORT FOR THE SDR LINK. ON DEBT SITUATION, HE ENCOURAGED ECLA AND MEMBER COUNTRIES TO LIMIT THEIR INDEBTEDNESS AND TO ANALYZE INDEBTEDNESS IN CONJUNCTION WITH RESOURCES. HE CITED THE EEC AS EXAMPLE OF BENEFITS OF INTEGRATION AND URGED GREATER EFFORTS ON THE PART OF LA'S IN LAFTA, CARIFTA AND CACM. TURNING MORE SPECIFICALLY TO COMMENTS ON BEHALF OF THE EEC, LISETTE SPOKE OF THREE EEC MEETINGS IN 1972 IN WHICH HE SAID THE EEC HAD PLEDGED ITS SUPPORT FOR LDC DEVELOPMENT. THE SUM OF HIS REMARKS WAS TO THE EFFECT THAT THE EEC WOULD ENDEAVOR TO CONTINUE ITS GOOD RECORD VIS- A- VIS THE LDC'S AS REGARDS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, TRADE, ETC.

4. MR. PRICE (BELIZE) SAID THAT HE LOOKED FORWARD TO INDEPENDENCE OF HIS COUNTRY AND FULL MEMBERSHIP IN ECLA. HE TOUCHED ON THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY SITUATION, SAYING THAT THE LDC'S WERE VICTIMS OF RECENT DEVALUATIONS.

5. UN UNSEC DE SEYNES IN USUAL ELEGANT, IF AMORPHOUS, STYLE EMPHASIZED ONE SIGNIFICANT POINT: THE DESIRABILITY OF AMENDING THE IDS. HE SAID THAT THE ECLA DISCUSSION OF THE IDS CONVINCED HIM OF THE NECESSITY OF AMENDING IT, THAT THE
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STRATEGY SPECIFICALLY PROVIDED FOR REVISION TO ADJUST TO NEW

DYNAMICS AND THAT ONE COULD NOT EXPECT GA RESOLUTION OF 1970
TO BE CURRENT FOR A VERY LONG TIME. FINALLY, HE SAID THAT
ALTHOUGH RE- EXAMINATION OF THE IDS WAS PRESENTLY
SET FOR 1975, HE FELT THAT REVISION COULD NOT WAIT UNTIL THEN.

6. THE SPEECHES OF MAGARINOS (LAFTA) AND THE REP OF WHO
WERE SIMPLE SURVEYS OF THEIR RESPECTIVE ACTIVITIES IN THE
COURSE OF THE LAST FEW YEARS AND CONTAINED NOTHING NEW.
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